

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05313 281224Z

51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-11 OMB-01 RSR-01

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R 281058Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3253

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

RUDTCSMAMEMBASSY LONDON 282&

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 05313

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, IR, IZ, PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTURE OF IRAQI JEWS FROM IRAQ

SUMMARY: IRAQI JEWISH SOURCES IN TEHRAN SAY THAT REMAINING IRAQI JEWS IN IRAQ WHO ARE WILLING AND ABLE TO LEAVE WILL HAVE LEFT IRAQ NOT LATER THAN END OF AUGUST 1973. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT OF IRAQ

JEWISH COMMUNITY IN TEHRAN SALEH CHITAYAT

CALLED AT EMBASSY JULY 28 TO INFORM US THAT FINAL EXODUS FROM IRAQ OF IRAQI JEWS HAS BEGUN. SIX IRAQI JEWS CROSSED INTO IRANIAN TERRITORY FROM IRAQI KURDESTAN ON JULY 24 AND ARRIVED IN TEHRAN ON JULY 26. ONE OF THESE, MISS EVA IBRAHIM INY, A DENTIST, ACCOMPANIED CHITAYAT ON HIS CALL. SHE AND CHITAY ESTIMATE THAT A TOTAL OF ABOUT

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 05313 281224Z

FORTY JEWS, INCLUDING THE GROUP ARRIVING ON JULY 24, ARE DUE TO

ARRIVE IN IRAN VIA THE KURDESTAN ROUTE BEFORE THE END OF AUGUST. ABOUT 160 OTHER IRAQI JEWS WILL BE GIVEN PASSPORTS AND DEPART LEGALLY FROM IRAQ. WHEN THESE 200 PEOPLE HAVE DEPARTED APPROXIMATELY 100 JEWS WILL REMAIN IN IRAQ WHO FOR VARIOUS REASONS SUCH AS OLD AGE, ILLNESS OR ABSENCE OF RELATIVES ABROAD WHOM THEY MIGHT JOIN ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN IN IRAQ.

2. CHITAYAT AND INY SEE THE MORE RELAXED POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ AS FLOWING IN PART FROM THE RECENT COUP ATTEMPT IN THAT COUNTRY. IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO RESTORE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE, THE IRAQI REGIME IS SAID TO HAVE LIBERALIZED THE REGULATIONS DEALING WITH EXPORTS, IMPORTS AND OTHER BUSINESSES. MORE LIBERAL RULES FOR TRAVELING ABROAD AND FOR VISITING IRAQ HAVE BEEN MADE APPLICABLE TO ALL GROUPS. CHRISTIANS AS WELL AS JEWS ARE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE AND MANY OF THE FORMER ARE ALSO SAID TO BE DEPARTING BECAUSE THEY, LIKE THE JEWS, HAVE NO CONFIDENCE THAT THE BAGHDAD REGIME WILL FOR LONG FOLLOW A TOLERANT POLICY TOWARDS MINORITIES.

3. ALTHOUGH CHITAYAT WOULD NOT BE DRAWN INTO A DISCUSSION OF ARRANGEMENTS THE IRAQI JEWS HAVE MADE WITH THE BAGHDAD REGIME, THE FACT THAT THE OUTJOD#MOVEMENT "MUST" BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF AUGUST IMPLIES THAT AN AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED. THE OBVIOUS ROUTE OF ESCAPE APPLYING TO THE FORTY JEWS WHO WILL DEPART THROUGH KURDESTAN IS NOT EXPLAINED ALTHOUGH, FROM WHAT CHITAYAT SAYS, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT IS TACITLY AGREEING TO THEIR DEPARTURE. IN ANY CASE, CHITAYAT AND INY APPEARED CONFIDENT THAT ALL JEWS ABLE AND WILLING TO LEAVE IRAQ WILL BE ABLE TO DO SO IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. CHITAYAT IS RELUCTANT FOR ANY TO REMAIN BEHIND AND WILL PROMISE ALL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE PREPARED TO LEAVE, BUT SOME OF THE OLD JEWS AND THOSE WHO ARE ILL WANT TO LIVE OUT THEIR REMAINING YEARS IN IRAQ.
HECK

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

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